

January 9, 2001

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Investigation into Area Code Relief

PROCEDURAL ORDER

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**I. Summary**

In this procedural order, the Commission reminds carriers of their obligations to submit numbering utilization and forecast data and changes the reporting requirement for the independent telephone companies from a semi-annual obligation to an annual obligation.

**I. 2001 COCUS**

All carriers are reminded that, pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) First Report and Order<sup>1</sup>, they must submit updated number utilization and forecast information to the North American Numbering Administrator (NANPA) by February 1, 2001. Revised forms that are supposed to be used this February have not yet been approved by the federal Office of Budget and Management. However, NANPA has now posted the revised forms to its website and is encouraging carriers to use the revised form. (Please see the attached e-mail from NANPA concerning the forms.) Carriers should monitor NANPA's website [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com) for further information regarding the forms. In the event the FCC extends the filing deadline, carriers should comply with the new deadline. Carriers should also provide the Commission with a copy of the information submitted to NANPA.

**II. Exemption for Rural Carriers**

In paragraph 67 of the First Report and Order, the FCC delegated authority to state commissions to decrease the frequency of utilization and forecast reporting for carriers within their states. The Commission believes that Maine's 23 rural, non-pooling, independent telephone companies should only report their utilization and forecast data once a year in August. These companies serve sparsely populated areas of the state and rarely request numbering resources. Further, the Commission has reviewed the data these carriers have submitted over the past two years on a semi-annual basis and finds that there are minimal changes in both the utilization and forecast data from one reporting period to the next. Accordingly, pursuant to paragraph 67 of the First Report and Order, Maine's independent telephone companies will now be

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<sup>1</sup>In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 00-104 (March 31, 2000).

required to submit number utilization and forecast data once a year on August 1<sup>st</sup> (or any other date designated by the FCC).

The relief from these reporting requirements does not relieve the independent telephone companies from the requirement of paragraph 84 of the First Report and Order that a carrier have an updated COCUS on file before receiving new numbering resources. Accordingly, if an independent telephone company determines that additional resources are needed between February 1 and August 1 of any given year, the company must submit updated COCUS information before or at the same time of the code request. (If resources are needed between August 1 and February 1, the August 1<sup>st</sup> COCUS information will be sufficient.)

We do not provide this same relief for Verizon-Maine, competitive local exchange carriers, or wireless carriers; these carriers must continue to submit utilization and forecast data every six months. We have made this decision because of the more dynamic situation in Verizon-Maine's territory where competition is beginning to take hold and where thousand block pooling takes place. The Commission finds the semi-annual information very helpful in assessing both the progress of competition and the success of our number pooling and conservation efforts. We also believe that this information is necessary to provide NANPA with the most accurate information for long-term planning purposes.

Any carrier objecting to the relief provided to the independent telephone companies shall file comments detailing their position no later than **January 19, 2001**. If no such comments are received, the Commission will inform both NANPA and the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau of the exemption.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 9th day of January, 2001.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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Trina M. Bragdon